

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC  
Form 4  
April 03, 2008

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
SMITH O BRUTON

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD

(Street)

CHARLOTTE, NC 28212

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
04/01/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Chairman and CEO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |   |   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 04/01/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>            |  | M                              | 30,000  | A   | \$ 9.19  | 123,150   | D |
| Class A Common Stock            | 04/01/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>            |  | S                              | 21,000  | D   | \$ 21.0576 <sup>(2)</sup>                                | 102,150   | D |
| Class A Common Stock            | 04/02/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>            |  | M                              | 30,000  | A   | \$ 9.19  | 132,150   | D |
| Class A Common Stock            | 04/02/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>            |  | S                              | 21,000  | D   | \$   | 111,150   | D |

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|                      |                           |  |   |        |   |                  |         |   |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|---|--------|---|------------------|---------|---|
| Common Stock         |                           |  |   |        |   | 21,3472          |         |   |
|                      |                           |  |   |        |   | <u>(3)</u>       |         |   |
| Class A Common Stock | 04/03/2008 <sup>(1)</sup> |  | M | 30,000 | A | \$ 9.19          | 141,150 | D |
| Class A Common Stock | 04/03/2008 <sup>(1)</sup> |  | S | 21,000 | D | \$<br><u>(4)</u> | 120,150 | D |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |                      |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Options to Purchase                        | \$ 9.19  | 04/01/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>            |  | M                              | 30,000  | 04/06/1999   | 10/06/2008  | Class A Common Stock | 30,000                     |
| Options to Purchase                        | \$ 9.19  | 04/02/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>            |  | M                              | 30,000  | 04/06/1999   | 10/06/2008  | Class A Common Stock | 30,000                     |
| Options to Purchase                        | \$ 9.19  | 04/03/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>            |  | M                              | 30,000  | 04/06/1999   | 10/06/2008  | Class A Common Stock | 30,000                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                  |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer          | Other |
| SMITH O BRUTON<br>C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.<br>5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD | X             | X         | Chairman and CEO |       |

CHARLOTTE, NC 28212

## Signatures

Stephen K. Coss, Attorney-In-Fact for O. Bruton  
Smith

04/03/2008

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
  - \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Options exercised and shares sold pursuant to previously announced 10b5-1 trading plan.
  - (2) Shares were sold at prices ranging from \$21.00 to \$21.19.
  - (3) Shares were sold at prices ranging from \$21.08 to \$21.58.
  - (4) Shares were sold at prices ranging from \$21.10 to \$21.52.

### Remarks:

Exhibit 24 - Power of Attorney filed herewith.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.  
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